



HOPEWELL JR. HIGH CHORUS

2014-2015 Handbook

Teacher: Mr. Chad Toporski

Room: #140

E-mail: toporskic@hopewellarea.org

Phone: (724) 375-6691 ext. 4140

Office Hours: Monday – Friday

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

2:35 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

** Meeting/tutor times before or after school can be scheduled upon request.*

Website: <http://www.hopewelljrmusic.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/hopewelljrmusic>

Twitter: @HopewellJrMusic – <https://twitter.com/HopewellJrMusic>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Chorus students will learn to use their vocal instrument to create a correct and pleasant singing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students will also learn music reading skills, sight-singing skills, listening skills, and performance skills. Chorus also offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

CONCERT DATES

Holiday Concert: Thu., December 18, 2014, 7:00 PM, at Hopewell Memorial Jr. High

Mid-Winter Concert: Thu., February 26, 2015, 7:00 PM, at Hopewell Memorial Jr. High

Spring Concert: Wed., May 13, 2015, 7:00 PM, at Hopewell Memorial Jr. High

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Classroom Management Policy.....	2
Care of Materials.....	3
Concert Policy.....	5
Grading Outline.....	7
Chorus Officers.....	8
Signature Sheet.....	9

Classroom Management Policy

The guidelines for behavior in the General Music and Chorus classroom all revolve around three “R’s”: Readiness, Respect, Response-ability. If students come to class ready to sing and learn, then they will be more successful. If every student maintains a level of respect for all aspects of the learning environment, then it provides a safe place for their education. And if all students are “response-able” for their actions and behaviors, then they will be able to take positive control of their own learning.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Be **READY** to learn
- Be **RESPECTFUL**
- Be “**RESPONSE-ABLE**”

Management System:

- *Class Dojo* (<http://www.classdojo.com/>) will be the system used to track student behavior and provide positive interventions. Parents and students will be given separate directions for how they can access this information via the internet or electronic device applications.

* **NOTE:** Inappropriate student behavior will be recorded on a Disciplinary Action Form.

As a member of the Hopewell Jr. High Chorus, you will be responsible for the care and handling of choral folders and sheet music. It is important that these materials be kept in good condition so that funds do not have to be wasted on replacing them, and so that future students have access to using them. By conserving these materials, money can be spent on new music and equipment to help the choral program grow. The following is the Hopewell Jr. High Chorus's policy regarding the care of classroom materials.

I. Choral Folders

- A. Each student will be assigned a folder number at the beginning of the year. Notes will be made on the condition of the folder for reference at the end of the course.
- B. Students are responsible for the care of the folder as well as all of the materials contained within.
- C. Folders are to remain in their designated storage area when not in use.
- D. Students should refrain from tearing, bending, writing on, or in any way damaging choral folders.
- E. Students found vandalizing folders not assigned to them will face harsher disciplinary action.

II. Sheet Music

- A. Each student will be assigned sheet music throughout the year. Pieces will be added and removed from folders by the ensemble director as needed.
- B. Students are responsible for the care of all sheet music assigned to them.
- C. Sheet music is to remain in the student's folder when not in use.
- D. Students should refrain from tearing, bending, or in any way damaging their sheet music.
- E. Students should only write on their sheet music at the instruction of the ensemble director. Only No. 2 pencils should be used! (No markers, highlighters, colored pencils, etc.)
- F. Students found vandalizing sheet music not assigned to them will face harsher disciplinary action.

III. Instruments

- A. Any instruments used in conjunction with the chorus or located in the classroom are the responsibility of every student.
- B. Instruments should only be used when instructed and using appropriate technique.
- C. Students should refrain from in any way vandalizing or damaging instruments.
- D. All instruments are to remain in their designated storage area when not in use.

IV. Music Stands and Chairs

- A. All music stands and chairs used in conjunction with the chorus or located in the classroom are the responsibility of every student.
- B. Music stands and chairs are to only be used for their intended purposes.
- C. Students should refrain from in any way vandalizing or damaging the chairs and stands.

V. Consequences

- A. The failure to treat classroom materials with care will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Classroom Management Policy.
- B. Students must reimburse the school for any materials they are found to have damaged beyond reasonable use.
 - 1. Choral Folders – \$3.00 each
 - 2. Sheet Music – \$2.00 each
 - 3. Instruments – Full Cost for Replacement
 - 4. Chairs – \$84.00 each
 - 5. Stands – \$51.00 each
- C. All funds received as reimbursement for damaged materials will go directly into the Chorus Activity Fund and will be used for replacement purposes only.
- D. Students who do not pay assigned fees will receive a hold on their report card until payment is made.

Concert Policy

The performing ensembles of Hopewell Memorial Jr. High School are a unique part of the school curriculum. As members of the concert bands, jazz band, and/or chorus, students learn about music through its performance on their respective instrument and as part of a larger group. Their ensemble directors select music that is appropriate for their development, and a large part of their assessment in the course is based on their ability to play these pieces with technical proficiency and musicality.

Unlike most other academic classes, the performing music student must learn the responsibility of fulfilling their role as part of a larger ensemble. As such, these students are depended upon by their peers to attend rehearsals and perform at concerts. The Spring and Winter Concerts are culminating activities that are both a display and an assessment of each student's work throughout the school year.

The following is the Hopewell Memorial Jr. High Music Department's policy regarding concert attendance, attire, and grading. Please read through the policy carefully with your student, and return the attached signature sheet to their ensemble director.

I. Attendance

- A. All students are required to attend after-school concerts and performances as listed on the course syllabus at the beginning of the year.
- B. Students are expected to be present by their designated report time and to attend the entire event.
- C. The ensemble director will grant excused absences and other attendance exceptions no later than one week prior to the concert.
 1. Parents must inform the teacher in writing or by phone about why their student will not be able to fully attend the concert.
 2. Exceptions will be made in cases of emergency, such as the following:
 - a. Death or birth in the family
 - b. Severe illness
 - c. Unexpected transportation problems
 3. Students excused from the performance will be required to complete a make-up assessment for their concert grade.
- D. Students who are in the Temporary Learning Center (TLC) on the day of a concert will not be allowed to participate, as per the Student Handbook, and it will be reflected in their grade. (See III. Grading, C. Deductions)
- E. Students who do not participate in the concert due to TLC or an unexcused absence must complete a make-up assessment at a reduced grade.

II. Concert Attire

- A. Standard concert attire is black and white. All black is acceptable, as well.
- B. Suggested Boys' Attire:
 - 1. White collared shirt
 - 2. Black dress pants (no jeans)
 - 3. Black dress shoes and black socks
- C. Suggested Girls' Attire:
 - 1. White dress shirt or blouse
 - 2. Black slacks, skirt, or dress
 - 3. Black dress shoes/heels
- D. The school dress code will apply to all concerts, since they are considered a school function. If something is not acceptable for school, students should not wear it for a concert. The Hopewell Memorial Jr. High School Dress Code Policy can be found in each student's planner.
- E. Students should avoid flashy or distracting hairstyles, jewelry, or other attire.
- F. The ensemble director may adjust the concert attire at his/her discretion, though any changes must be made well in advance of the concert date.
- G. Parents who are unable to provide their students with concert attire that adheres to the above guideline should contact the ensemble director in writing or by phone no later than a week prior to the concert so that appropriate exceptions can be discussed.

III. Grading

- A. The primary Christmas, Mid-Winter, and Spring Concerts, including make-up assessments, will each be worth 100 points of the student's grade.
- B. Secondary performances will be worth no more than 50 points of the student's grade. The ensemble director may adjust the value at his/her discretion.
- C. Deductions:
 - 1. Unexcused Absence – one letter grade deduction
 - 2. TLC – one letter grade deduction

Grading Outline

The following is a general outline for the grades given to Chorus members. With the exception of the concert performances and evaluations, the total points stated may be adjusted slightly as the year progresses. Additional assessment grades may also be added as deemed necessary.

- **Concert Performances** (25% of grade)
50 pts. each
x 3 performances
= 150 pts. total

- **Concert Evaluations** (25% of grade)
50 pts. each
x 3 evaluations
= 150 pts. total

- **In-Class Assignments** (25% of grade)
= 150 pts. total

- **Quizzes & Tests** (25% of grade)
= 150 pts. total

- **Total Grade = 600 points**

Extra Credit

Extra credit and bonus questions will be offered sparingly throughout the course. These extra points will be used to challenge students beyond the required curriculum and will only have a minor effect on grades. They might also be used to demonstrate competence in a course objective in lieu of traditional methods.

Extra credit will NOT be given for good behavior or for compliance with tasks expected of every student. Students should utilize extra credit opportunities whenever they present themselves, as each one will have a deadline for completion.

Chorus Officers

In order to maintain a successful and efficient ensemble, the 7th & 8th Grade Chorus will utilize student leaders to assist the ensemble director with day-to-day tasks. Only students in eighth grade with previous choral experience are eligible to become Chorus Officers, though exceptions can be made in extreme cases. Below are the responsibilities of each position, as well as the guidelines for becoming officers.

OFFICER POSITIONS

President

- Represents the entire chorus and facilitates group decisions.
- Assists in maintaining a positive and orderly classroom environment.
- Leads rehearsals during absences by the ensemble director.

VP/Treasurer

- Takes roll for daily rehearsals and concerts.
- Manages and tracks funds for the chorus.

Librarian

- Responsible for distributing and collecting choral music.
- Maintains inventories for choral folders and music.

Equipment Manager

- Oversees the handling and care of equipment used by the chorus.
- Ensures chairs, risers, etc., are set up correctly for rehearsals and concerts.

Expectations

- Chorus Officers are expected to remain in good standing with the ensemble. Any significant behavioral problems during rehearsals or concerts will result in removal from the position.
- Chorus Officers showing favoritism in their official interaction with the chorus will be reprimanded. Multiple infractions will result in a removal from the position.
- A failure to adequately perform the duties detailed herein will result in removal from the position.

Nomination

- Students may nominate themselves or others for officer positions, but do not have to accept the nomination if not interested.
- All nominees running for an office must submit a nomination form, which includes a short essay about why they are a good fit for the job.

Selection

- The choral teacher will meet with each candidate as well as review nomination forms to aide in the decision-making process.
- The choral teacher will select the officers based on an objective review of information.

Signature Sheet

I have read and understand the above Handbook for the Hopewell Memorial Jr. High Chorus. All students are expected to adhere to the detailed policies in order to maintain a safe, enjoyable, and productive learning environment.

Student's Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Phone Number

E-mail Address

**** Please detach sheet from Handbook and return to Mr. Toporski by _____ ****

